



BOOK REVIEW OF *PERAHU KERTAS*

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the result from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 30 October 2013

Nurul

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Experience is not what happens to you, it's what you do with what happens to you.
(Aldous Huxley)

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor. (Truman Capote)

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes. (St. Clement)

This final project dedicated to my beloved family

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The writer realizes that this project is still far from perfect. She, therefore, will be glad to accept any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the reader for learning about the meaning of life and how to be a successful person by the inspiring story from this novel.

Semarang, 30 October 2013

Nurul

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Backgroud of the Writing

According to Wellek and Warren in *Teori Kesusastraan*, “Sastra menyajikan kehidupan dan kehidupan sebagian besar terdiri dari kenyataan sosial, walaupun karya sastra juga meniru alam dan dunia subjektif manusia” (1989:109). Literature is image or impression of daily life in society. So, every literary work has a social value that is easily absorbed by the reader.

Perahu Kertas, one of the best-selling novels written by Dewi Lestari, is a literary work that has a very interesting theme. The theme of that novel is not merely a love story of young couple but also friendship that contains the values of social life.

This novel gives a lesson about love and destiny that are inseparable, it is about the meeting and parting. It is about a love life of young couple that is likened to a paper boat cruised brings every story but it ultimately boils down to the same place. Hanung Bramantyo, a film director, made this novel story into a film, which gets a lot of appreciation from the movie lovers. Based on it, the writer would like to review more deeply about *Perahu Kertas* novel on the strengths and weaknesses.

1.2. The Purposes of the Writing

The purposes of the writing are:

1. To give summary about novel *Perahu Kertas* written by Dewi “Dee” Lestari.
2. To review *Perahu Kertas* based on the strengths and weaknesses.

1.3. Dewi Lestari and Her Works

Dewi "Dee" Lestari is the fourth of five children of parents Yohan Simangungsong and the late Turlan br Siagian. Dee was born in London, January 20, 1976. She graduated from Parahyangan University majoring International Relations. Dee was initially known as a member of the vocal group RSD. Then, she becomes a good singer and a good writer in Indonesia.

Since her teens Dee had a hobby to write. Dee's first writing has been published in several media. In 1993, she sent a paper entitled "*Ekspresi*" to *Gadis* magazine that was holding a writing contest, and she managed to get the first winner. Three years later, she wrote a serial titled "*Rico the Coro*" that was published in *Mode* magazine.

The first sensational novel, *Supernova I: Ksatria, Putri, dan Bintang Jatuh* was released on February 16, 2001. In March 2002, Dee launched the "*Supernova I*" in English version to go the international market with a partner Harry Aveling, a translator expert in matters of Indonesian literary works into English. Succeeded with her first novel, Dee launched his second novel, *Supernova II* with titled "*Akar*" on October 16, 2002, although there were few problems because she used the Hinduism symbol in her book cover. After the issue is over, Dee continued to write *Supernova* to the next sequel.

This novel also makes Dee to be one of the nominees of the *Katulistiwa Literary Award* (KLA) in 2003. In January 2005 Dee released her third novel, *Supernova* episode "*Petir*". This novel story is still associated with her two previous novels. However, she only put 4 new characters in her novel. One of them is *Elektra*, a central figure in this novel.

After a long time not producing work, in August 2008, Dee released her latest novel, *Rectoverso*, which is a blend of fiction and music. *Rectoverso* consists of 11 fictions and 11 songs that are interconnected. The most famous short stories from this book is *Malaikat Juga Tahu* that tells the love of a mother to her son who suffers from autism. This short story is also presented in a song, with the story and the same title.

The most sensational novel of Dee's works and it is also filmed in 2012, is *Perahu Kertas*. The novel is published by Bentang Pustaka in 2009. This novel manuscript has spread widely on the Internet, but without a final chapter. Nevertheless, the fans are still waiting for her novel published because they want to know how the end of story. After publishing this novel, then it is followed by the publication of a collection of stories "*Madre*" in July 2011. The collection of stories, "*Madre*", contains 13 works of prose fictions.

From her writing experiences, Dee is awarded *A Playful Mind Award* (2003) and she is awarded to become one of *Generasi Bintang Extra Joss* (2004).

CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY

Perahu Kertas is a novel by Dewi Lestari that is themed on friendship of four friends. This book is easy-reading that is packed with the easy language and full of life values that can be read by all ages.

The novel story starts with the story of Keenan, a young man who just graduated from high school. He has lived in Amsterdam for six years with his grandmother. Keenan has a very strong talent to paint and wants to be a painter. However, he has to return to Indonesia to study as his promise to his father. Finally, Keenan studies in Bandung, at the Faculty of Economics.

On the other hand, there is Kugy, a unique and eccentric woman, who also will study at the same university with Keenan. She likes fairytale since childhood. She is also very happy to write a story and wants to be a storyteller. However, Kugy is aware that tale writer is not a convincing profession and readily accepted. She does not want to be separated from the world of writing, so Kugy continues her study at the Faculty of Letters. She has a unique habit that is she likes to make paper boat and then float it into the river.

Kugy and Keenan are met by Eko and Noni. Eko is Keenan's cousin, while Noni is Kugy's friend since childhood. All of them move from Jakarta and study at the same university in Bandung, except Noni. Finally, they become best friends.

After Kugy and Keenan meet, they are attracted to each other and secretly in love. However, Kugy already have a boyfriend, named Ojos. Hence, when Keenan knows about it, he tries to deny his feeling for Kugy. On the other hand, Noni and Eko intend to match Keenan with the young curator, Wanda.

Ojos begins to feel the change of Kugy's manner. He feels Kugy does not care with him. Finally, their relationship is over. Then, Kugy becomes a volunteer teacher at the emergency school named *Sakola Alit*. There, she meets Pilik, her most mischievous student. Kugy is successful to conquer Pilik and his friends, and she writes a fairy tale about their adventures that are entitled: *Jenderal Pilik dan Pasukan Alit*. Kugy writes the story of her students almost every day in a notebook, and she gives it to Keenan later on.

For keeping her feeling, Kugy does not attend Noni's birthday party that is celebrated in Wanda's house. Noni is angry with Kugy. Meanwhile, Kenaan begins to manage his life by going to Ubud, to live with his mother's best friend that is also a painter named Pak Wayan. Keenan slowly can treat his wounds. The most influential figure in his healing is Luhde Laksmi, Pak Wayan's nephew. Keenan begins to paint

again. Armed with the stories of *Jenderal Pihk dan Pasukan Alit* that is given by Kugy, Keenan creates the series of paintings that they become famous and are hounded by collectors.

Kugy graduates from college quickly and she works in an advertising agency in Jakarta as a copywriter. There, she meets Remigius, her boss and her brother's best friend. Remi looks something else from Kugy. He likes Kugy not only because of her ideas, but also the spirit and unique quality that is emanated from Kugy. Finally, they become a couple.

Keenan cannot stay forever in Bali. Because of his father's condition, Keenan is forced to return to Jakarta and he runs the family company.

Although Keenan does a long distance relationship with Luhde and Kugy cannot always meet with the Remi every day, their love relationship is fine. However, it is not last long. Luhde feels Keenan's heart is not entirely for her. Remi also feel that Kugy does not love him fully.

The meeting between Kugy and Keenan occurs in Noni and Ekos's engagement. Everything is in different condition and their feeling is tested again. Story of love and friendship for five years has ended with a surprise. Every heart can only surrender back in the flow of love that flows somewhere. Like a paper boat that is washed away in the trenches, in the pond, in the river, but it always boils down to the same place. Finally, Kugy and Keenan begin their love story.

CHAPTER 3 REVIEW

3.1. The Strengths of the Book

Perahu Kertas, the sixth novel written by Dewi Lestari, has a very interesting theme. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, theme is "the subject of a piece of writing". Therefore Melanie (2009) described that: theme is a common thread or repeated idea that is incorporated throughout a literary work. A theme is a thought or idea the author presents to the reader that may be deep, difficult to understand, or even moralistic.

The explanation above shows that theme is the important substance in novel. On *Perahu Kertas* written by Dewi "Dee" Lestari, there are three themes described implicitly. Those themes are friendship, love, and life learning. The followings are the explanation of the themes.

1. Friendship

According to Oxford Dictionary, friendship is the feeling or relationship that friends have, the state of being have. Many important things are needed for a good friendship, including honesty, loyalty, trust, acceptance, and communication.

On *Perahu Kertas*, the writer captures that friendship is a main theme that Dee gives to the readers. Friendship is explained from how she illustrates the relationship built through the characters. In this novel, the readers will find that friendship is illustrated like in real life, such as they care to each other and can forgive each other even though they are in the big dispute.

This novel tells about the dynamic of the life of four people, they are Kugy, Keenan, Noni, and Eko. It is also correlated with the internal circle. They are always together in happiness or sadness. They form a gang, is called *Pura-Pura Ninja*. They are always eating together in *Pemadam Kelaparan* canteen in their campus. They also go to

the movie every weekend. They always help to each others when there is a difficulty. If Eko's car stalls in the road, they help to push the car together. Eko, Noni, and Kugy still give support to Keenan when he decides to leave his study and chooses to paint. Then when Keenan's father is sick, Eko helps Keenan's work in his office. From that togetherness, their friendship represents love among them.

The strength of friendship itself is shown when there is a conflict between Kugy and Noni. Kugy, that is introvert person, wishes Noni to know that she has feeling for Keenan. However, Noni does not know about it even she intends to match Keenan with Wanda. Noni is angry when Kugy does not attend her birthday party that is celebrated in Wanda's house. Without communication about Kugy's reason, Noni does not want to meet Kugy. Then, they avoid each others. It causes their friendship broken. Noni does not care everything about Kugy. Even she does not know that Kugy graduates from college quickly. Finally, Noni know that Kugy's reason is that she loves Keenan and she wants to keep her feeling from her friends. Noni feels, that she does a mistake because she always avoids Kugy. Noni regrets it. Noni asks for an apology to Kugy. Kugy also feels regretful because she thinks that Noni should have known everything that Kugy felt. Because of the power of their friendship, their relationship is fine.

2. Love

According Oxford Dictionary, love is a strong feeling of deep affection for someone or something. Love can refer to a variety of different feelings, states, and attitudes, ranging from interpersonal affection ("I love my lover") to pleasure ("I loved that meal"). It can refer to an emotion of a strong attraction and personal attachment. *Perahu Kertas* tells about interpersonal love; love between human beings. Interpersonal love is most closely associated with interpersonal relationships. Such love might exist between family members, friends, and couples.

On *Perahu Kertas*, firstly, love is shown from the love between Kugy and Keenan. Their love is true although they never say it to each other. They are so happy when they are together. They create a dream together. With Keenan, Kugy believes that her dream will come true. Kugy becomes a story tale writer and Keenan becomes the illustrator for Kugy's story tale. They have the same character that is introvert. They are attracting to each other and secretly in love. Because of their character, they love each other but they are not together. Even they have a love relationship with others to keep their feeling from their friends. Kugy is having relationship with Remi and Keenan is having relationship with Luhde. Then, because of love they are reunited. The second is love between family members. For example, love between Keenan and his father. When his father is sick, Keenan leaves his passion in painting to run his father's company. He leaves his career while he has a good increase in his selling of his painting.

3. Life Learning

According to Oxford Dictionary, life is the particular way of living and the experiences that people have. There are two meanings, first, the events and experiences that are typical of a particular place or group of people. Second, the events and experiences that happen to people in general. From life, we can learn about everything. Life value also can be learnt from a novel. Experiences in novel can share the life learning to the readers.

On *Perahu Kertas*, the readers can learn the value of life because the readers can learn about how we must keep the spirit to achieve our dreams. Although Kugy works as creative director in an advertisement office, but she still keeps her dream to be a story tale writer. When she has opportunity to realize her dream, she leaves her job. Although she has good career and becomes a good worker there, she still chooses to achieve her dream, a lesson taken from Dee's sentence, "*Kita harus menjadi sesuatu yang bukan diri kita, untuk akhirnya menjadi sesuatu yang merupakan diri kita sendiri*". This sentence has the meaning that we must be willing to make sacrifices to achieve our dreams even if we have to be different person, previously. Then, we can continue to pursue our dreams. We should not be hopeless quickly to face of all trials in realizing our dreams.

3.2. The Weakness of the Book

Although *Perahu Kertas* has very interesting theme, but there is also weaknesses in the novel, that is its plot.

According to Laurence Perrine (1988), plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. When recounted by itself, it bears about the same relationship to a story that a map does to a journey. Every plot must contain some kind of conflict. Conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional, or moral. Stories can have more than one conflict. However, there is one conflict will become a climax.

The explanation above shows that plot is guideline of story from the beginning to the end. Story will be better if it has clear end. So, the writer should have written the end of story clearly. Then, conflict is also needed in story. It is part of plot. On *Perahu Kertas*, there are two weaknesses about its plot. The following paragraph will explain about these weaknesses.

First, the ending of this story seem to be not clear. It encourages many questions in the readers' mind. Dewi Lestari does not tell how the end of the tale and painting that are made by Kugy and Keenan. She also does not tell clearly about Keenan and Kugy's project. Kugy becomes a story tale writer and Keenan becomes illustrator. Do they publish their work together or not? It is not explained by Dewi clearly. Then, the future of the Keenan's father company after Keenan chooses to go back to paint, is not clear as well. Does his father or somebody else finally lead the company? Finally, it is about Remi. His further life is not told by the writer. Where does Remi go after breaking up with Kugy? How does he continue his life without Kugy? Therefore, this ending of story shows that the story in this novel seems to be unfinished.

Second, *Perahu Kertas* has conflict that seems too flat without a climax. There are many conflicts but all are simple. When love is not told to each other, it can become many conflicts. For example, love between Keenan and Kugy. They do not say that they love each other. Even they have love relationship with others. It can hurt their heart and can hurt their couple heart too. They are being discrete about their feeling. They do not tell their friend about it. It makes misunderstanding between Kugy and her friend, Noni. It makes this book becomes monotonous so that it is less interesting and may bore the readers.

CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION

Perahu Kertas, one of the best-selling novels, is the sixth novel written by Dewi Lestari which has an interesting theme. This novel has also been filmed by Hanung Bramantyo into two parts. Like the novel, the film *Perahu Kertas* also gets a lot appreciation from the movie lovers.

The main theme used is really simple, that is, about friendship. Furthermore, this novel does not only talk about friendship, but also about life learning. Then, in the friendship appears love. Dewi Lestari combines those themes into a novel story nicely.

Based on the review of *Perahu Kertas*, the novel has three important values presented implicitly from the story. The first value is friendship. It is the main theme of this novel. This novel gives illustration about friendship where the characters always care for each other and always forgive each other. The second value is love. Love exists between family members and couples. Love between families members are shown by Keenan's love to his father. Then, loves between couples are Keenan's love to Kugy.

Besides friendship and love, life learning is the supporting value in this novel. This value is that we must keep the spirit to achieve our dreams.

In addition, novel *Perahu Kertas* also has weaknesses. First, the end of this novel story is not clear and it seems that the end of story is still hanging. It will inflict any questions in the readers' mind. Second, *Perahu Kertas* has conflict that seems too flat without a climax. So, it makes this story becomes monotonous.

In conclusion, *Perahu Kertas* is a good novel that is suitable to be read by all of ages. Beside having simple story and using easy language, this novel also contains positive messages. Although there is some weakness, *Perahu Kertas* teaches the readers about how we must keep the spirit to achieve our dreams. Then, it shows the power of love. Finally, the judgment depends on the readers reading this book.

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